

Full Stream Ahead

News and highlights from Creeks and Communities: A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management

February 2003

The NRST has a piece of exciting news to report. Laura Van Riper, a Ph. D. S.C.E.P who has been working with the NRST for the past three years, recently passed her dissertation defense. She will be moving to Prineville in June to continue her work with our team. As many of you know, the focus of Laura's dissertation was an evaluation of the *Initiative for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management*. Her research provided us with a number of insights that have been instrumental in charting the future course of the initiative.

Laura's research demonstrated that although we have been doing a number of things right, as indicated by high levels of customer satisfaction, there are opportunities for improvement. For instance we have changed the way we will be using service trips as a way to resolve riparian related conflicts and bring about change on the ground. The foundation of service trips will continue to be the creation of a common understanding and vocabulary through a focus on the physical functionality of riparian-wetland areas. We recognize, however, that in many instances simply providing access to scientific and technical information is not enough. Instead, we must also work to ensure the up-front participation of diverse stakeholders, help these groups manage conflict, and assist in obtaining the resources needed to implement changes on the ground. This means that some situations may require more than a one-time intervention. In certain situations we may need to work up-front with requesters to identify and secure the involvement of all the necessary stakeholders. In other instances, we may need to follow-up with groups to help them address and overcome the barriers that are keeping them from implementing changes on the ground.

A large portion of the action items or tasks identified in our revised strategy is devoted to enhancing the ability of network members to engage in this type of work. Specifically, we are working to secure agency and supervisor support for network members to participate in service trips through previous and future briefings with the BLM, USFS, and NRCS. We will also be working to diversify both the skills and affiliations (encouraging participation of non-traditional partners) of riparian coordination network members.

Wayne

Upcoming Riparian Network Meeting

The NRST is currently working on the agenda for an all Network meeting on the implementation of the revised Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration & Management (ACRRM) strategy *Creeks and Communities*.

We are in the very early stages of planning this. Knowing how busy everyone is we want you to get this on your calendars now. More information will be sent in the future.

When: Week of November 17, 2003.

Location: Probably in Phoenix, AZ at the BLM National Training Center.

Wayne's Retirement

It is true.....Wayne Elmore is retiring on May 31 from the BLM after 35 years of service. We will be having a retirement party for him on May 31, 2003 in Prineville, Oregon

Celebrate Wayne's incredible career with a family oriented potluck dinner and roast

When: May 31, 2003
5:00-9:00 PM

Where: Prineville Elks Lodge
151 N Main Street
Prineville, OR

Potluck Dinner - Please bring a main dish, salad or side dish. Dessert will be provided.

Please contact Carol Connolly at (541) 416-6892 or carol_connolly@or.blm.gov for the following:

1. RSVP with Name, Address, phone, email and number attending
2. Unable to attend and would like to send a card or gift
3. An item for a memory book that is being compiled for Wayne

If you would like to "Roast" Wayne at the party please email or call Don Prichard at don_prichard@blm.gov or (303) 236-0162

Local Hotels: Stafford Inn (541) 447-7100
Best Western (541) 447-8080
City Center (541) 447-5522
Crook County RV Park (541) 447-2599

West Cascades Riparian-Wetland Information Tour

During the last week of February, John Anderson, Cold Stream Consulting; Mike Borman, Oregon State University Extension Range Specialist, and National Riparian Service Team (NRST) members Lisa Lewis, Soil Scientist and Road Management Specialist and Sandy Wyman, Rangeland Management Specialist toured a variety of riparian-wetland systems in southwest Oregon. The group worked with local extension agents Amy Peters, Shelby Filley, and Randy White to find landowners willing to let the team explore their riparian-wetland systems and to learn about their land management practices, riparian-wetland improvement projects, and the challenges they have in managing their lands.

The purpose of this trip was to answer the many requests for information on, and photos of, the riparian-wetland areas on the Westside of the Cascades and Olympic Mountains. In contrast to most eastside environments, these systems depend on Large Woody Material and rock to maintain physical and biological integrity. Climate, topography, and erosion potential of these landscapes also make them different from drier environments associated with eastside riparian-wetland areas. The Riparian Coordination Network will use the information gathered for training purposes when in these areas.

Specifically, the group will develop a photo log with explanations of the attributes and processes that are different in west Cascade and Olympic riparian-wetland systems for use in continuing the initiative to Accelerate Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management. This information will be useful to the Riparian Coordination Network when conducting Proper Functioning Condition assessments and when providing Riparian Roads and Grazing Management Training. The information is also intended to help trainers understand what attributes and processes are needed for these systems to function properly and how they differ from those on the east side of these mountain ranges.

The team hopes to complete the information packet by fall 2003. If you have any questions or information that may be useful in understanding these Westside systems, contact Sandy Wyman at 541-416-6886, swyman@or.blm.gov or Lisa Lewis at 541-416-6788, L3Lewis@or.blm.gov.

Grant Writing

An important component of the revised strategy is diversifying the riparian coordination network, to enhance their ability to assist communities in implementing change on the ground. As part of this effort, the NRST recently hosted a 3-day grant writing workshop in Prineville, OR. Approximately 30 people attended this workshop, including network members (cadres and NRST), various community members, and other agency employees. The goal of this session was to provide insight into and practice with grant writing for conservation. Emphasis was placed on outlining strategies for obtaining resources to support projects that include both Federal and non-Federal partners. In addition to skill development, this session also provided opportunities to introduce individuals to the *Initiative for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management*, and to build relationships with and solicit involvement from non-traditional partners. The NRST plans to use our new knowledge and contacts to identify and leverage additional resources to assist in the implementation of our new strategy and help ensure future change on the ground. If you have any questions, or would like additional information about this session, please contact Laura Van Riper at 406-360-4623, Laura167@msn.com.

Wayne Elmore Briefs the BLM ELT

Wayne traveled to Salt Lake City February 19th to brief the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Executive Leadership Team (ELT) on the roll out of "*Creeks and Communities: A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative riparian restoration and Management*" the revised strategy for accelerating cooperative riparian restoration and management. For those who may be unfamiliar with the BLM's structure the ELT is composed of the Director, State Directors and senior Washington Office staff.

After a brief reiteration of the need and design of the original strategy Wayne provided the ELT with a synopsis of the evaluation conducted by Laura Van Riper on the first five years of implementation of the original strategy. The strategy received high marks overall from people interviewed by Laura and it was clear that much has been accomplished. However, it was equally clear that the original strategy, which placed primary emphasis on the science side and viewed the social dimension as supporting, was not proving to be the most effective vehicle for achieving results. This realization has led to a revised strategy that while retaining the primary design of the original strategy, now works to support efforts in assisting communities develop the capacity to collaboratively restore and manage riparian resources. The importance of using good science has not been lost. However, it has once again become clear that science alone does not solve problems only provides a way to structure (or a foundation for) collaborative decision making efforts that incorporate diverse and involved members of local communities.

Wayne ended the briefing by asking for the active support of the ELT, particularly in the area of providing members of the Riparian Network with the direction and means to increase their participation. The briefing was well received by the ELT, with Director Clarke strongly emphasizing her commitment to the strategy and calling for the ELT members to provide full support to the Riparian Coordination Network in implementing the strategy

Upcoming Training

The National Riparian Service Team is offering to conduct training designed to help people cooperatively develop grazing management strategies that not only restore and maintain riparian health, but are compatible with the ranch operation as well. Experience has shown that if the grazing system is not feasible and practical, it will not meet intended resource objectives. The intent of this course is to bring people together who are involved in planning, implementing, or evaluating riparian grazing systems and provide them with proven concepts and tools.

Requests are now being accepted from field offices interested in sponsoring a 3-day course titled ***Grazing Management for Riparian-Wetland Areas*** in your area. The curriculum, created by the interagency National Riparian Service Team (NRST), is designed to increase awareness and understanding of the tools, concepts, and thought processes needed to develop and implement successful riparian grazing management strategies. This course is intended to compliment the Interagency Technical Reference 1737-14 of the same title.

Please examine the course objectives and criteria carefully. The specific requirements given are purposeful in the design of this training and require a certain amount of pre-work and commitment on the part of the sponsor. The expected outcome is the collective development of several grazing scenarios providing the basis for people to move ahead with a course of action.

The 3-day training will be offered at 3 locations in FY03. In the event more requests are submitted than we can handle this year, those not conducted this year will receive first priority for scheduling next year.

Please note specific course information below:

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By understanding tools, concepts, and thought processes, attendees will be able to work with other individuals, groups, and agencies to develop and implement successful grazing management strategies. Given an actual livestock operation situation, participants will provide grazing management alternatives to achieve riparian objectives.

TARGET AUDIENCE: Those users, permittees, agency personnel and others who are involved with planning, managing, or evaluating riparian grazing systems.

CRITERIA FOR THE THREE DAY TRAINING:

1. Please provide 3 to 4 interdisciplinary teams for the training. Interagency makeup of teams, as well as permittee participation, either as team members, or from a learning or information sharing standpoint are an important component of the training.
2. Please submit an exercise relative to an actual livestock operation. It is important that the livestock operation has riparian and upland resources typical of a large geographic area. Multiple allotments within an operation, multiple jurisdictions, including private lands, within an operation, and/or multiple operators with common allotments should be included.
3. Please provide the following:
 - Description of existing management boundaries, improvements, and maps
 - Land Use Plan material as it relates to the proposed exercise operation
 - Climate, soils, hydrology, and vegetation data/information
 - Inventory and/or monitoring data
 - Slides or videos representing landscapes, riparian areas, etc. of the operation

COURSE LOCATION: The courses will be held at the field locations of the sponsors.

SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS: Each request must address the criteria outlined above. Include a **brief description** of the actual livestock operation situation to be used for the training exercise, a **proposed location**, and **preferred dates** (with alternatives, if possible).

Please send request to:

Susan Holtzman, NRST Coordinator
USDA Forest Service
PO Box 3623
Portland, OR 98208
skholtzman@fs.fed.us
Fax (503) 808-2469

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please give Susan a call at (503) 808-2987.

Riparian Roads: Restoration and Management Techniques

Building on the initiative for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management, the Riparian Roads Restoration Team (RRR) conducted a three-day training in Cincinnati, Ohio. The three-day workshop was intended for Forest Service employees from the eastern states, including Texas and Puerto Rico. Workshop participants represented a broad range of diverse skills including heavy equipment operators,

resource scientists, staff officers, engineers, and landscape architects. The course content included an introduction to Riparian-Wetland Areas that focused on hydrology, soils (geology), vegetation, as well as biological considerations.

After establishing a common understanding of the physical and biological attributes of riparian-wetland systems, and the effects that roads have on these areas, the instructors shifted the presentations to restoration solutions. Many techniques were shared. A few examples include road relocation and realignment; reshaping roads to fit the area's hydrology (i.e. outsloping, insloping; surfacing techniques; construction of roadway dips and low water crossings; installation of permeable fills and multiple culvert arrays; and soil bioengineering and biotechnical engineering solutions to stabilize eroding hillsides. In addition, instructors provided information on riparian road crossing construction designed to restore fish passage and improve wildlife crossings.

The RRR team will be teaching another class in March in Missoula, Montana, and in April, southeast New Mexico. Information gathered from these exercises is being used to build a Road Management Training Module for the Riparian Coordination Network. Training binders, Field Guides, and workshops will be available to the Network in fiscal year 2004 by members of the RRR and NRST.

For more information, contact Lisa Lewis at (541) 416-6788 or by email at L3Lewis@or.blm.gov.

The next issue will include a synopsis of the NRST trip to Washington D.C., for the purpose of doing internal briefings with various people in the BLM, Forest Service, and NRCS. The briefings focused on the work that has been accomplished since 1996, the program evaluation, and how the evaluation results have shaped the revised strategic plan entitled "Creeks and Communities: A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration." Overall the briefings were well received by all three agencies. We will also talk about some of the ideas and plans for implementing the new strategy and for our team's transition stemming from Wayne's upcoming retirement.